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SIBSEY
Rural District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

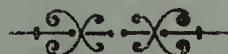
OF

**THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

OF THE

SIBSEY RURAL DISTRICT

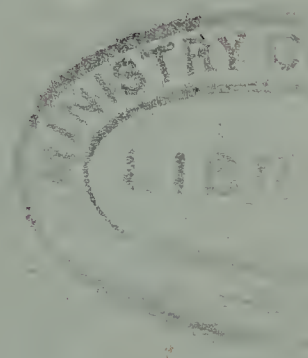
FOR THE YEAR 1925.



BOSTON :

A. BROUGHTON, PRINTER AND STATIONER,
42 MARKET PLACE.

1926.



SIBSEY
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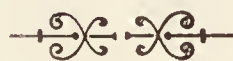
OF

**THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

OF THE

SIBSEY RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1925.



BOSTON :

A. BROUGHTON, PRINTER AND STATIONER,
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Sibsey Rural District Council.

Chairman T. J. WARD, Esq.

Members :

H. VERE, Esq.

S. STEEPER, Esq.

G. T. TEMPLE, Esq.

F. J. CAUDWELL, Esq.

G. E. EVERARD, Esq.

W. H. DAFT, Esq.

Clerk to the Council :

O. B. GILES, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health :

D. C. ROBERTSON, M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

H. TYSON, Esq.

SIBSEY RURAL DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1925.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the following report :—

Natural and Social Conditions.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	21,565
Population (1925)	...	...	...	...	3,063
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)			...	...	700
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£26,011
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			...	...	£44

The greater part of this district is land reclaimed from the sea. The alluvial soil covers a layer of sand, and under the sand is clay. The "sock," or soak water, varies in depth from the surface according to the rise and fall in the drains. These drains finally discharge into the sea.

Consequently, on digging wells, the water is almost always brackish, and not much use for drinking purposes.

The chief occupation in the area is farming and the trades in connection therewith.

Vital Statistics.

			M.	F.	Total.		
Births	{	Legitimate	...	30	28	59	} Birth Rate
		Illegitimate	...	1	2	3	
Deaths		...	...	22	16	38	Death Rate 12.4
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of child birth					{ From sepsis, Nil.		
					{ ,, other causes, Nil.		

Deaths of Infants (under one year of age), per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate 129. Illegitimate 300.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age), Nil.

The birth rate is practically the same, and the death rate is lower than last year.

The birth rate during the last five years is stationary, and the death rate rises a little every year, with the exception of this year.

The Infantile mortality is very high, taking into consideration the fact that the area is entirely rural.

This year six of the Infant deaths were certified as congenital debility and premature birth, and last year five out of a total of nine were certified as due to the same cause. The cause of this is a matter for conjecture.

Provision of Health Services.

Fever Hospital.—The Hospital is situated on the outskirts of the Borough of Boston, and is supported by your Authority in conjunction with the Urban and Rural Districts of Boston. The main Hospital has accommodation for 18 patients. In addition, there is a block with 12 beds for Small-pox cases, but, owing to its near proximity to the main Hospital, it is useless as such, and I have used it as an annex when the main Hospital was full. Any Small-pox case that occurs is accommodated in the Port Sanitary Block, which is some distance from the main Hospital. This block is very unsatisfactory, and, if Small-pox cases are to be dealt with, will have to be structurally altered so as to provide nurses' accommodation and better kitchen facilities.

Ambulance facilities.—Up to the present infectious cases have been taken to hospital by a horse-drawn vehicle. This is a very slow and tedious process. The area is large and hours have been spent in bringing cases to hospital. A motor ambulance is now all but completed, and will prove a great boon both to patients and staff. The caretaker is to act as driver, and a nurse will go out to bring in all cases. Non-infectious cases are dealt with by the Ambulance of the St. John Ambulance. All the other branches of the health services are administered by the County Health Authority.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—The main source of water supply is rain-water collected in tanks. These tanks, in the majority of cases, have a holding capacity of 1,500 gallons, and the general standard is good. More might be done as to cleaning the tanks oftener than is usually done. Wells are of the shallow variety, and are used solely as an extra supply, the water in nearly all cases being brackish and unfit to drink.

The water mains of the Boston Waterworks Company run through the district, and in the vicinity of Carrington and Frithville householders are allowed to draw their supplies from that source.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There is no system of drainage in the area. Cesspools drain into the land and are emptied from time to time.

Closet Accommodation.—Vaults and privy middens are in use in about 90% of households. In 10% pail closets are in use. In both cases they are emptied on to the land periodically. In some instances the vaults are in close proximity to wells, but well water, as I have said before, is hardly ever used for drinking purposes. If, perchance, it has to be used, it is always boiled.

Housing.

Housing conditions are, on the whole, up to the average. The actual shortage of houses is not excessive. There are, however, several houses which are almost beyond repair, and it is almost too much to expect landlords to repair them. New houses, therefore, are required to replace houses which are old and dilapidated. Several houses have been built by the Council during the last five years.

There is no actual overcrowding in the district.

Fitness of Houses.—The standard of house is good, There are several houses which might be improved. The main defects found were leaky roofs, damp walls, broken windows, doors, &c. Landlords have been advised as to repairs to be carried out, but management of houses by landlords is not as good as it might be.

Meat Inspection.—There are only two registered Slaughter-houses in the District. They are both in good order. Meat inspections have been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. No meat has been condemned by the Health Authorities.

Infectious Diseases.

The District has been fairly free from infectious diseases, although more than the usual number of cases of scarlet fever have occurred during 1925. These were mostly of a mild type, and only one case was of a severe type. Measles and Whooping Cough, non-notifiable diseases, have been prevalent this year, and in some cases schools have had to be closed, owing to the prevalence of these complaints.

Through the courtesy of the County M.O.H. and Headmasters of schools I have been fully informed as to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious diseases.

Premises, exposed to infection, have been promptly disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Disease			Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small-pox	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	10	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	1	Nil	Nil
Enteric	...	...	1	1	1
Ophthalmia	...	...	1	Nil	Nil
Chicken Pox	...	...	1	Nil	Nil

Seven of the ten cases of Scarlet Fever occurred between the ages of 5 and 10.

Four cases of Tuberculosis were notified, two Pulmonary and two non-pulmonary. There were four deaths from this disease, two Pulmonary and two Non-pulmonary.

One case of Ophthalmia was reported and was dealt with by the County Authorities.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SIBSEY RURAL DISTRICT, 1925

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES (Civilians only)			22	16
1—Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...
2—Small-pox	...	...	...	...
3—Measles	...	...	...	...
4—Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...
5—Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...
6—Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...
7—Influenza	...	...	...	...
8—Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...
9—Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...
10—Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	1	1
11—Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	1	1
12—Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	4	3
13—Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...
14—Diabetes	...	...	...	...
15—Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	1	1
16—Heart Disease	...	...	1	2
17—Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	1	...
18—Bronchitis	...	...	...	...
19—Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	1	1
20—Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...
21—Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	1	...
22—Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...
23—Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...
24—Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...
25—Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	1	...
26—Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...
27—Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	...
28—Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	...	...	4	2
29—Suicide	...	...	...	...
30—Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	2	5
31—Other Defined Diseases	...	...	4	...
32—Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants { Total	...	...	4	4
under 1 year { Illegitimate	...	...	...	1
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	80	29
Legitimate	...	...	29	27
Illegitimate	...	...	1	2
POPULATION	...	...	3063	

Table X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	Birth- rate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).	Total Deaths under One year.	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ...	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000).	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0

SIBSEY RURAL DISTRICT.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Total number of inspections and re-inspections (including housing inspections,
see below)

DWELLING- HOUSES.	Number of new houses erected during the year :—		
	(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) with State assistance under the Housing Acts by the Local Authority)		Nil
	(b) By the Local Authority		Nil
	(c) With State assistance under the Housing Acts by other bodies or persons		Nil
	1. Unfit dwelling-houses.		
	Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		8
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925		Nil
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		Nil
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		Nil
	2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers		Nil

DWELLING-
HOUSES—
Continued.

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices | .. | ... | ... | Nil |
| (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | | | |
| (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

DWELLING- HOUSES— Continued	{	(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
		(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... Nil
COMMON LODGING- HOUSES.	{	Number registered under by-laws	... Nil
		Number of inspections made	... Nil
		Number of contraventions of by-laws	... Nil
		Number of contraventions remedied	... Nil
CANAL BOATS USED AS DWELLING- HOUSES.	{	Number registered under Acts	... Nil
		Number of Inspections	... Nil
		Number of contraventions of regulations	... Nil
		Number of contraventions remedied	... Nil
MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS ETC.	{	Number inspected during year	... Nil
		Number of nuisances therefrom abated	... Nil
		Number removed from district	... Nil
BAKEHOUSES	{	Number in district	... 5
		Number of underground bakehouses	... Nil
		Number of Inspections	... 5
		Contraventions of Factory Acts	... Nil
		Defects remedied	... Nil
SLAUGHTER- HOUSES.	{	Number on register	... 2
		Number of Inspections	... 18
		Frequency of Inspections	... Monthly
		Contraventions of by-laws	... Nil
		Defects remedied	... 1
COWSHEDS.	{	Number on register	... 5
		Number of Inspections	... 18
		Frequency of Inspections	... Half-yearly
		Contraventions of regulations	... Nil
		Contraventions remedied	... Nil
		Number of milch cows in district	... Estimated 100
		What arrangements for Veterinary Inspection of Cows?	... None

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.	{	Number on register	...	...	...	Nil
		Number of Inspections	...	...	...	Nil
		Frequency of Inspections	...	...	...	Nil
		Contraventions of regulations	...	...	...	Nil
		Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	Nil
		Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	...	...	...	Nil
UN SOUND FOOD.	{	(a) Animals seized	..	...	...	Nil
		(b) Articles seized	...	...	...	Nil
		Condemned by Magistrate (a)	...	...	...	Nil
		„ „ „ (b)	...	...	...	Nil
		Articles surrendered	...	...	...	Nil
OFFENSIVE TRADES.	{	Number of premises in district	...	...	...	Nil
		Number of Inspections	...	...	...	Nil
		Contraventions of by-laws	...	...	...	Nil
		Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	Nil
WATER SUPPLY.	{	Public Supply	Area supplied	...	..	Nil
			Percentage of houses supplied	...	...	Nil
			New Cisterns provided	...	...	Nil
			Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered, etc.		1	
	{	Wells	New sunk	...	...	Nil
			Cleansed, repaired	...	...	Nil
			Closed as polluted	...	...	Nil
	{		Number of samples obtained for analysis	...	...	Nil
			(a) from wells	...	...	Nil
			(b) from public supply	...	...	Nil
			Any insufficiency and where	...	...	Nil

* Including Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, Workshops, Dairies, Cowsheds, Offensive Trades, Lodging-houses, Canal Boats, Tents, Vans and Sheds.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.	CLOSETS.	No. of houses with privy vaults in district	...	720
		No. of houses with pail closets in district	...	8
		No. of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	...	Nil
		No. of pail closets repaired	...	2
		No. of houses with water-closets in district	...	Nil
		No of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles		Nil
		„ „ repaired	...	Nil
	DRAINS.	Drains examined, tested, exposed, &c.	...	3
		„ unstopped, repaired, trapped, &c.	...	Nil
		Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected, repaired, &c.	...	Nil
		New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed	...	Nil
		Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired		Nil
		Drains reconstructed	...	Nil
	SEWERS.	New lengths of sewer laid	...	Nil
	TANKS, FILTER BEDS, ETC.	Alterations to sewage disposal works	...	Nil
		Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	..	Nil
	CESSPOOLS.	Cesspools rendered impervious	...	Nil
		„ emptied, cleansed, &c.	...	Nil
		„ abolished	...	Nil
	DISINFECTION.	Rooms disinfected	...	Nil
		(a) ordinary infectious disease	...	10
		(b) tuberculosis	...	2
		Rooms stripped and cleansed	..	Nil
		Articles disinfected or destroyed	...	Nil
		(a) ordinary infectious disease	...	Nil
		(b) tuberculosis	...	Nil

* In Urban Districts give particulars of streets or houses without public supply. In Rural Districts give names of villages with public supplies.

HOUSE REFUSE.	{	No. of covered ashpits ...	...	} Uncovered
		„ uncovered ashpits ...	...	
		„ bins substituted for ashpits ...	...	
		„ houses using bins ...	...	8
		Is refuse removed by householders or by public		
	{	scavenger? ...	...	Householder
		How frequently is refuse removed from each		
		house? ...	...	as required
		No. of complaints of non-removal ...	...	Nil
		Method of final disposal ...	...	on Land

NUISANCES.	{	Total Number of Nuisances during year :—		
		(1) Abated as result of informal action by		
		Sanitary Inspector ...	...	4
	{	(2) Reported to		
		Council {	Statutory notice issued ...	Nil
			„ „ not issued	Nil

DETAILS OF NUISANCES ABATED.	{	Overcrowding ...	...	After informal Intimation.	After Statutory Notice.
		Smoke ...	...		
		Accumulation of refuse ...	...		
		Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water ...	...	2	
		Foul pigs and other animals ...	...		
		Dampness ...	...		
		Yards re-paved or repaired ...	...	1	
		Other nuisances ...	...	1	

Annual Salary as Inspector	Other Appointments held	Salary for such other Appointments
£30	Highways Surveyor	£75

Any Assistants ? No.

DAWSON C. ROBERTSON,
M.B., D.P.H. (Cantab.)

